



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
DEER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
2013 Deer Zone Information

Wildlife Branch
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95811



General Deer Hunting Information For
ZONE D-4
(Includes Additional Hunts G-19 and J-17)

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR DEER HUNT ZONE

This information sheet has been prepared to assist deer hunters applying for, or planning to hunt in, Zone D-4 located in portions of Colusa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties. The following information should be useful to hunters for archery and general seasons as well as "additional hunts" within this geographic area. For more specific information or additional questions regarding this area, contact the following Department office(s):

North Central Region Office (Region 2), 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900) encompassing Alpine, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, Colusa, El Dorado, Glenn, Lake, Nevada, Placer, Plumas, northeastern Sacramento, eastern San Joaquin, Sierra, Sutter, northern Yolo and Yuba counties.

REGULATIONS

Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: <http://www.fgc.ca.gov/regulations/current/mammalregs.aspx>. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more.

Remember, if you are hunting on private property you must obtain, and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced.

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill; record the appropriate D zone where the deer was killed (either Zone D-3, D-4 or D-5); attach the tag to the antlers, or ear, if antlerless; have the tag validated and countersigned; and return the completed report card portion to, or file an online harvest report (see highlighted area below on Internet Harvest Reporting) with DFW within 30 days of taking a deer.

INTERNET HARVEST REPORTING

In anticipation of mandatory harvest reporting for all big game species, in 2012 DFW began offering an Internet reporting option for hunters to submit big game tag/report card information. Both successful and unsuccessful hunters will be able to report their hunt results online via DFW's Online License Service at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/harvestreporting/>. Hunters logging into the system are now able to view all their tags that require reports. Hunters submitting reports online will receive a report confirmation number and will not have to mail in their report card(s). DFW encourages all hunters (including those who were unsuccessful or who had a tag but did not hunt) to use this new service to meet their respective reporting requirement(s).

Accurate harvest information is a crucial element in developing population estimates, tag quotas, assessment of current hunt programs, and in the development of new opportunities. An online reporting option will provide that information in a more timely and convenient manner.

OBTAINING DEER TAGS

Beginning in late 2010, DFW began implementation of the new Automated License Data System (ALDS). Under this computer data system, all licenses, stamps and tags are applied for, and issued through online Point-of-Sale terminals (IPOS) located at various DFW license offices, over 1,400 license agents statewide or online at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/>. Under ALDS much less paperwork is required to apply for, and receive tags. In addition, licenses, tags and entry into the Big Game Drawing can all be accomplished with one trip to a license agent. Once your personal information is entered and stored in the database, the database controls and tracks what you have applied for, or been issued, as well as preference points.

Other than the way you apply for and receive licenses and tags, the primary difference you will notice is in the form that the license or tag comes. Instead of the old style license or postcard type deer tag, they will all come out of the IPOS terminal in the form of a long receipt. If successful at harvesting a deer, filling out the tag and report card portion, validation and report card return requirements remain unchanged. For more specific information on ALDS, application procedures and zone/hunt information, check out the 2013 California Big Game Hunting Digest available by May at most DFW offices and license agents or online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>

For deer tag distribution purposes, zones and hunts are classified based upon the date in which the zone or hunt tag quota is filled in the prior year. The three tag categories include:

- 1) "**Premium**" zone/hunt tags are only issued through the Big Game Drawing using a First-Deer Tag Drawing Application, except that junior hunters may use their Second-Deer Tag Drawing Application to apply for Apprentice (J) Hunts. Hunters will lose all accumulated deer preference points if drawn for their first choice in the Big Game Drawing.;
- 2) "**Restricted**" zone/hunt tags are available upon application with a First-Deer Tag, or a Second-Deer Tag after August 1.; and
- 3) "**Unrestricted**" zone/hunt tags are available at any time using either a First- or Second-Deer Tag.

For Zone D-4 and associated hunts within the zone, the tag categories are as follows:

- 1) **Premium** Deer Hunts – **G19 and J17**
- 2) **Restricted** Deer Hunts – None
- 3) **Unrestricted** Deer Hunts – **D3-5 and Archery Only (AO)**

The 2013 deer hunting regulations specific to Zone D-4 (archery and general season) and any additional hunts are listed at the end of this sheet. To hunt deer in Zone D-4, hunters must possess a Zone D3-5 deer tag which is valid in Zone D-3, D-4 or D-5 during the archery or general season using the appropriate method of take. Additionally, Archery Only Tags (AO Tags) are valid during the Zone D-4 archery or general season using archery equipment only.

Any additional deer hunts in Zone D-4 are listed in the Additional Deer Hunts section near the end of this sheet. Typically, tags for additional deer hunts are in high demand and distributed through the Department's Big Game Drawing held in June. To receive tags for many of these hunts, hunters must plan ahead and apply by the **June 2, 2013 deadline**. Information regarding application procedures and restrictions, ALDS, zone and hunt seasons, prior year drawing and hunt statistics are contained in the 2013 Big Game Hunting Digest available at most Department offices, license agents and online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>

LAND OWNERSHIP/PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES

Zone D-4 contains a mixture of both public and private lands however most of the public land is in the eastern portion of the zone. Remember you must obtain and have in your possession written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. Public lands within the zone are administered by the El Dorado and Tahoe National Forests (USFS). For information regarding these lands contact the following:

USFS Offices:

El Dorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667 (530-622-5061)

Tahoe National Forest, 631 Coyote St., P.O. Box 6003, Nevada City CA 95959 (530-265-4531)

BLM Offices:

Mother Lode Field Office, 5152 Hillsdale Circle, El Dorado Hills, CA 95762; (916-941-3101)

There are some public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the western portion of the zone, but access is extremely limited. West of Foresthill most of the land is private, although there are some public lands administered by the BLM in the Iowa Hill Area.

Wilderness lands have been established within the Tahoe National Forest. The Granite Chief Wilderness Area is accessible by hiking and pack stock. Public use of the wilderness is regulated by permit. Information on wilderness area restrictions and Wilderness Permits may be obtained by contacting the Tahoe National Forest.

Hunting is also allowed on the Feather River Wildlife Area, administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. For more information and maps of these areas contact the Sacramento Valley and Central Sierra Region Office, 1701 Nimbus Road, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 (916-358-2900).

Deer hunting is allowed in portions of the Auburn State Recreation Area along the North and Middle forks of the American River near the town of Auburn. Please contact the ASRA (530-885-4527) for maps and additional information.

In Zone D-4 and other zones throughout California, additional deer hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/plm.html>

MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zone or additional deer hunt boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/zonemapsinfo.html>

The most comprehensive maps of the area are the El Dorado and Tahoe National Forest maps. USFS maps are available locally at most USFS offices; by contacting the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737); or ordered by phone (406-329-3024), fax (406-329-3030), mail at USDA Forest Service, National Forest Store, P.O. Box 8268, Missoula, MT 59807, or on-line at <http://www.nationalforeststore.com/>.

BLM surface management maps may also be useful. You can purchase these maps at BLM district offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-1834, Sacramento, CA 95825 (916-978-4400).

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic maps are very helpful, especially for topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps may be available from sporting goods, backpacking or engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly at: Rocky Mountain Mapping Center, Branch of Information Services, Box 25286, Denver, CO 80225 (888-ASK-USGS).

ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

Major access to this zone is along Highway 80 via Foresthill and Highway 49. Numerous County and USFS roads traverse this zone providing good access throughout most of the zone.

WEATHER CONDITIONS/TRAVEL TIPS

The weather in this zone can be highly variable, so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry during archery and early general season, but early storms are not uncommon. The chance for significant snowfall increases throughout the season, but heavy rains can make many roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel. You should be prepared with appropriate clothing and equipment for a variety of weather conditions.

Zone D-4 covers a large geographic area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged and vegetation can be extremely dense. As you should do in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good

spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care with any off-road vehicle and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area. Horses can be useful in some portions of D-4. However, remember that it may be necessary to carry supplemental horse feed into the back country. Contact the local USFS and/or BLM office for more information regarding forage conditions for livestock.

CAMPING

There are several USFS campgrounds within the hunt zone and these are shown on USFS maps. Informal camping is allowed on both USFS and BLM lands, but campfire permits are required. Permits may be obtained from any USFS, BLM or California Department of Forestry (CDF) office. During fire season, special regulations may apply and it is best to contact the local USFS, BLM or CDF office for the latest information.

Please, DO NOT camp or hunt for prolonged periods near water sources important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining for over 30 minutes and within 200 yards of an artificial water source including guzzlers or horizontal wells on public lands within California is a Fish and Game violation (Title 14, Section 730). You can pack water, wildlife can't.

HARVEST INFORMATION

Information on deer harvest for this area is available in tables contained in the annual Deer Kill Reports available on-line at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deerhunt.html> For the purpose of planning or applying for hunts in this area, the harvest success and antler class information tables are the most useful. Tables containing Big Game Drawing statistics may also be useful in selecting a zone or hunt in which to apply. The table containing Big Game Drawing statistics for "Premium Hunts" can be found on pages 30-33 in the 2013 Big Game Hunting Digest available at most DFW offices, license agents and online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/publications/digest/>.

HERD CONDITIONS AND HABITATS

The deer population in Zone D-4 is considered stable to slightly declining, yet considerably below levels seen in the late 1960's and 1970's. As with most deer herds in California and other western states, the long-term population trend has been on a steady decline since the 1960's and 1970's. These long-term declines have been due to land management practices that have precluded fire, resulting in changes toward more mature and less diverse habitats, and reduced quality and quantity of deer habitats. Short-term fluctuations in deer populations are usually attributed to weather events that affect forage production.

The subspecies of deer inhabiting Zone D-4 include both Columbian black-tailed deer and California mule deer. The deer are generally considered migratory however resident deer occur at lower elevations. Deer in the eastern portion of the zone are migratory. They reside during the early to mid part of the season within lands administered by the (USFS). Resident deer may be found in the western portion of the zone however most of the land is private. From about mid-October, any significant winter storm will cause migratory deer at high elevations in the eastern portion of the zone to move down onto private lands in the west. The deer in this area generally move to higher elevations in late spring and will remain there until the first heavy fall storms force them down below the snow line. This downward movement often occurs during the hunting season, so hunters should be prepared to move to lower areas later in the season after stormy weather.

The vegetation is highly varied throughout Zone D-4 ranging from oak-woodland, mixed and montane chaparral, hardwood, hardwood-conifer, aspen and dense conifer to alpine habitats. Generally speaking, deer populations in this area respond favorably to vegetation disturbances that enhance brush species (wildfire and timber harvesting). Brush stands comprised of buckbrush, deerbrush and bitter cherry are good areas to hunt. Riparian areas (areas along watercourses), recently burned areas or clear cuts that have re-sprouted with brush are good areas to hunt. Areas where oaks are producing acorns may also attract deer. Typically, lower densities of deer are observed in the more densely forested areas or in older, more decadent brushlands.

HUNTING TIPS AND WHERE TO LOOK FOR DEER

Successful hunters often spend a considerable amount of time scouting pre-season, locating individual or

groups of deer, recently used deer trails, and feeding and bedding areas. You may not see many deer from the roads in this area and generally the more successful hunters do more hiking to locate deer. Binoculars and/or spotting scopes can be very helpful for locating and identifying deer at greater distances. In general, attempt to hunt areas that are away from other activities such as concentrations of hunters, vehicles, and/or livestock.

Historically, some of the more popular and productive deer hunting areas in Zone D-4 include:

Placer County: The areas around Barker Meadow/Pass, Bear Springs, Cisco Grove, Foresthill, Greyhorse Valley, Monument Ridge, Onion Creek, Soda Springs, Granite Chief Wilderness and Emigrant and Yuba Gap. Migratory deer are still present at these higher elevations early to mid-season.

Sutter and Yuba Counties:

Feather River Wildlife Area: The area consists of 2,329 acres of river bottom forest in 5 separate parcels on either side of the Feather River. The area is located about 10 miles south of Marysville/Yuba City. Access is from Highway 70 or Highway 99. Resident deer are present throughout the year. Shotguns and archery equipment are the only methods of take permitted on this wildlife area.

For additional information about deer hunting in California, see the Department's publication "Guide To Hunting Deer In California" at the following web site:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/docs/deerguide.pdf>

ADDITIONAL DEER HUNTS

In 2013, there are two additional hunt opportunities within Zone D-4: 1) G-19 (Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-Sex Deer Hunt); and 2) J-17 (Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt). For general maps detailing the individual hunt area boundaries, go to the following link:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/deer/deermaps.html>

2013 ZONE AND ADDITIONAL HUNT SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

(Any 2013 regulation changes from 2012 are highlighted in yellow.)

§ 360. Deer.

Except as otherwise provided in this Title 14, deer may be taken only as follows:

(a) A, B, C, and D Zone Hunts.

(4) Zone D-3-5.

(A) Area: Shall include all of zones D-3, D-4, and D-5 (see subsections 360(a)(4)(A)1. through 3.).

2. Zone D-4.

In those portions of Colusa, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba counties within a line beginning at the junction of Interstate 5 and Highway 20 at Williams; east on Highway 20 to Highway 70 in Marysville; south on Highway 70 to Highway 65; south on Highway 65 to the Bear River (south of Wheatland); east along the Bear River to Highway 20; east on Highway 20 to Interstate 80; east on Interstate 80 to the Pacific Crest Trail near the Castle Peak-Boreal Ridge Summit; south on the Pacific Crest Trail to Forest Route 03 at Barker Pass; east and north along Forest Route 03 to Blackwood Canyon Road; east along Blackwood Canyon Road to Highway 89 at Lake Tahoe near Idlewild; south on Highway 89 to Blackwood Creek; east on Blackwood Creek to the Lake Tahoe shoreline; south along the shore of Lake Tahoe to the mouth of Miller Creek and the common boundary between the Eldorado and Tahoe National Forests; west along Miller Creek to the Rubicon River; west along the Rubicon River through Hell Hole Reservoir to the Middle Fork of the American River; west along the Middle Fork of the American River to the American River; west along the American River to Interstate 5; north on Interstate 5 to the point of beginning.

(B) Season: The season for zones for D-3 through D-5 shall open on the fourth Saturday in September and extend for 37 consecutive days.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (See subsection 351(a)) or better, per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 33,000. The Zone D-3-5 tag is valid in zones D-3, D-4, and D-5.

(c) Additional Hunts.

(11) G-19 (Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

(A) Area: Those portions of Yuba and Sutter counties within the exterior boundaries of: (1) the Feather River Wildlife Area, and (2) the Sutter Bypass Wildlife Area (as defined in Section 550, Title 14, CCR).

(B) Season: The season for additional hunt G-19 (Sutter-Yuba Wildlife Areas Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall open on the fourth Saturday in September and extend through December 31.

(C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.

(D) Number of Tags: 25.

(E) Special Conditions: Only archery equipment and crossbows (as specified in Section 354) and shotguns and ammunition (as specified in Section 353) may be used.

(39) J-17 (Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt).

- (A) Area: Excluding Colusa County, in those portions of Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba Counties within the area described as zone D-4 (see subsection 360(a)(4)(A)2).
- (B) Season: The season for additional hunt J-17 (Blue Canyon Apprentice Either-Sex Deer Hunt) shall be concurrent with the zone D-4 general season as defined in subsection 360(a)(4)(B).
- (C) Bag and Possession Limit: One either-sex deer (see subsection 351(c)) per tag.
- (D) Number of Tags: 25.
- (E) Special Conditions:
 - 1. Only junior license holders shall apply (see subsection 708.2).
 - 2. Tagholders shall be accompanied by an adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

(44) Conditions for **Additional** Hunts.

- (A) When hunting on military reservations or private lands, hunters shall have in their possession a written permit signed by the landowner, which may specify where and when the permittee may hunt.
- (B) When required, tagholders shall check in and check out of designated check stations.

§ 361. Archery Deer Hunting.

(a) Archery Hunting With General Deer Zone Tags. Deer may be taken during the archery season only with archery equipment specified in Section 354 as follows:

- (4) D Zones.
 - (A) Zones D-3 through D-5.
 - 1. Area: As described in subsection 360(a)(4)(A)1. through 3.
 - 2. Season: The archery season in Zones D-3, D-4, and D-5 shall open on the third Saturday in August and extend for 23 days.
 - 3. Bag and Possession Limit: One buck, forked horn (see subsection 351(a)) or better per tag.
 - 4. Special Conditions: Hunters that possess a Zone D-3-5 tag may hunt in zones D-3, D-4, and D-5.

(c) Archery Hunting with Archery Only Tags. Deer may be taken only with archery equipment specified in Section 354, during the archery seasons and general seasons as follows:

- (1) Number of Archery Only Tags Permitted. A person may obtain an archery only tag using a one-deer tag application and a second archery only tag using a second deer tag application.
- (2) Zones in Which Archery Only Tags are Valid. An archery only tag is valid for hunt G-10, and during the archery season and general season in all zones except C-1 through C-4 and X-1 through X-12.
- (3) Areas: As described in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (4) Seasons: The archery season and general seasons are provided in subsection 361(a) above and in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (5) Bag and Possession Limit: All bag and possession limits per zone are the same as those described in subsections 360(a) and (c).
- (d) Hunting Area Limitations. Archers not in possession of an archery only tag may hunt only in the zone, zones, or areas for which they have a general tag or an area-specific archery tag. (Refer to subsection 361(c)(2) for zones in which archery only tags are valid).
- (e) Crossbow Prohibition. Except as provided in subsection 354(j), crossbows may not be used during any archery season or during the general season when using an archery only tag.

**** GOOD LUCK! ****